

determine the SSI past-due benefits before any applicable reduction for reimbursement to a State (or political subdivision) for interim assistance reimbursement, and before any applicable reduction under section 1127 of the Act (for receipt of benefits for the same period under title II). We then reduce that figure by the amount of any reduction of title II or title XVI benefits that was required by section 1127. We do this whether the actual offset, as provided under section 1127, reduced the title II or title XVI benefits. Past-due benefits do not include:

- (1) Continued benefits paid pursuant to § 416.996 of this part;
- (2) Continued benefits paid pursuant to § 416.1336(b) of this part; or
- (3) Interim benefits paid pursuant to section 1631(a)(8) of the Act.

Representative means an attorney who meets all of the requirements of § 416.1505(a), or a person other than an attorney who meets all of the requirements of § 416.1505(b), and whom you appoint to represent you in dealings with us.

We, our, or us refers to the Social Security Administration (SSA).

You or your refers to any person or the eligible spouse of any person claiming or receiving supplemental security income benefits.

[45 FR 52106, Aug. 5, 1980, as amended at 62 FR 38455, July 18, 1997; 72 FR 16725, Apr. 5, 2007]

§ 416.1505 Who may be your representative.

(a) *Attorney.* You may appoint as your representative in dealings with us any attorney in good standing who—

- (1) Has the right to practice law before a court of a State, Territory, District, or island possession of the United States, or before the Supreme Court or a lower Federal court of the United States;
- (2) Is not disqualified or suspended from acting as a representative in dealings with us; and
- (3) Is not prohibited by any law from acting as a representative.

(b) *Person other than attorney.* You may appoint any person who is not an attorney to be your representative in dealings with us if he or she—

- (1) Is generally known to have a good character and reputation;
- (2) Is capable of giving valuable help to you in connection with your claim;
- (3) Is not disqualified or suspended from acting as a representative in dealing with us; and
- (4) Is not prohibited by any law from acting as a representative.

§ 416.1506 Notification of options for obtaining attorney representation.

If you are not represented by an attorney and we make a determination or decision that is subject to the administrative review process provided under subpart N of this part and it does not grant all of the benefits or other relief you requested or it adversely affects any eligibility to benefits that we have established or may establish for you, we will include with the notice of that determination or decision information about your options for obtaining an attorney to represent you in dealing with us. We will also tell you that a legal services organization may provide you with legal representation free of charge if you satisfy the qualifying requirements applicable to that organization.

[58 FR 64886, Dec. 10, 1993]

§ 416.1507 Appointing a representative.

We will recognize a person as your representative if the following things are done:

- (a) You sign a written notice stating that you want the person to be your representative in dealings with us.
- (b) That person signs the notice, agreeing to be your representative, if the person is not an attorney. An attorney does not have to sign a notice of appointment.
- (c) The notice is filed at one of our offices if you have initially filed a claim or requested reconsideration; with an administrative law judge if you have requested a hearing; or with the Appeals Council if you have requested a review of the administrative law judge's decision.

§ 416.1510 Authority of a representative.

- (a) *What a representative may do.* Your representative may, on your behalf—

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(1) Obtain information about your claim to the same extent that you are able to do;

(2) Submit evidence;

(3) Make statements about facts and law; and

(4) Make any request or give any notice about the proceedings before us.

(b) *What a representative may not do.* A representative may not sign an application on behalf of a claimant for rights or benefits under title XVI of the Act unless authorized to do so under §416.315.

§416.1515 Notice or request to a representative.

(a) We shall send your representative—

(1) Notice and a copy of any administrative action, determination, or decision; and

(2) Requests for information or evidence.

(b) A notice or request sent to your representative will have the same force and effect as if it had been sent to you.

§416.1517 Demonstration project on direct payment of fees to non-attorneys.

(a) Section 303 of the Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (SSPA), Public Law 108-203, requires the Commissioner of Social Security (Commissioner) to develop and implement a 5-year nationwide demonstration project that extends attorney fee withholding and direct payment procedures to any non-attorney representative who meets minimum prerequisites for participating in the project specified in section 303 of the SSPA and any additional prerequisites prescribed by the Commissioner. The objective of this demonstration project is to determine the effect of extending to certain non-attorneys the fee withholding and direct payment procedures that apply to attorneys. A final report on the results of the demonstration project is to be completed and transmitted to Congress within 90 days of the project termination date, February 28, 2010.

(b) As used in this subpart, the term “eligible to participate in the direct payment demonstration project” refers to the status of a non-attorney who we have determined meets the pre-

requisites for participation in the demonstration project.

(c) The provisions of section 303 authorizing the direct payment of fees to non-attorneys and the withholding of title XVI benefits for that purpose apply in claims for benefits with respect to which the agreement for representation is entered into after February 27, 2005, and before March 1, 2010.

[72 FR 16725, Apr. 5, 2007]

§416.1520 Fee for a representative's services.

(a) *General.* A representative may charge and receive a fee for his or her services as a representative only as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Charging and receiving a fee.* (1) The representative must file a written request with us before he or she may charge or receive a fee for his or her services.

(2) We decide the amount of the fee, if any, a representative may charge or receive.

(3) A representative shall not charge or receive any fee unless we have approved it, and he or she shall not charge or receive any fee that is more than the amount we approve. This rule applies whether the fee is charged to or received from you or from someone else.

(4) If your representative is an attorney, or a non-attorney who is eligible to participate in the direct payment demonstration project, as defined in §416.1517, and you are entitled to past-due benefits, as defined in §416.1503, we will pay the authorized fee, or a part of the authorized fee, directly to the representative out of the past-due benefits, subject to the limitations described in §416.1530(b)(1). If the representative is a non-attorney who is not eligible to participate in the direct payment demonstration project, we assume no responsibility for the payment of any fee that we have authorized.

(c) *Notice of fee determination.* We shall mail to both you and your representative at your last known address a written notice of what we decide about the fee. We shall state in the notice—

(1) The amount of the fee that is authorized;